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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RQ, US, CU

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO ISSUE

REF: USUN 0048

FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. YOU ARE RIGHT TO SOUND THE TOCSIN ON PUERTO RICO.

2. WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES NOW. I HAVE TALKED WITH THE GOVERNOR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THIS AFTERNOON MOST RECENTLY. HE PROMISES THAT THE COMMONWEALTH WILL WORK WITH US ARM-IN-ARM. HE HAS APPOINTED BEN STEPHANSKY, THE HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S WASHINGTON OFFICE, TO BE THE POINT MAN FOR THE COMMONWEALTH. BEN HAS AGREED, FIRST TO PREPARE SUBSTANTIVE BRIEFING MATERIALS DEMON-STRATING THE AUTHENTICITY OF PUERTO RICO'S ACTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND SECONDLY TO ORGANIZING VISITS BY PUERTO RICAN EXPERTS (OFFICIALS, SCHOLARS, LAWYERS AND SO
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PAGE 02 STATE 006575

FORTH) TO CAPITALS OF COUNTRIES WHO COULD BE PERSUADED TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ISSUE. ALL THIS IS ESSENTIAL PREPARATION FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN NEW YORK. WE WILL BE MEETING WITH BEN AGAIN NEXT WEEK, AND WILL COME BACK TO YOU WITH THE RESULTS. YOUR ABLE SURROGATES FROM IO WILL ATTEND, OF COURSE.

3. IT IS ESSENTIAL, AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, IF WE ARE TO MAKE OUR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY EFFECTIVE, TO HAVE OUR POSITION AND INTERESTS CLEAR IN OUR OWN MINDS, AND IN THE MINDS OF THE OTHER NATIONS. THIS MEANS COMMUNICATION NOT ONLY IN NEW YORK, BUT IN WASHINGTON AND IN THE CAPITALS AS WELL,THAT WE REGARD THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, AND MOST PARTICULARLY THE CHARGE THAT WE HAVE DENIED SELF-DETERMINATION TO THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AS A MATTER OF FIRST PRINCIPLE. WE SHOULD SAY THAT WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE UN VOTES.

4. AND THEN, AS YOU WELL SAY, WE SHOULD MAKE GOOD ON OUR WARNING BY ORGANIZING, AFTER THE FACT, SOME CONSEQUENCE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THOSE CASES WHERE WE FORECAST THERE WOULD BE A CONSEQUENCE.

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